

### REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 31, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 49-63 and 124 (newly added) are pending in this application. Applicants request reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendments and remarks.

#### OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Abstract was objected to because of the use of the abbreviation "UHMWPE." Applicants have amended the Abstract to eliminate such an abbreviation. Applicants have also amended page 1 of the disclosure to include the application serial number of the referenced copending application.

#### CLAIM REJECTIONS BASED ON §102

Claims 49-52 and 55-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by McKellop et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,165,220 (hereinafter "McKellop"). By this amendment, claims 49-52, 55, 56, and 58-61 have been amended. Claim 124 has been added.

McKellop does not anticipate amended claim 49. Claim 49 includes the limitation of "a *gamma irradiated* crosslinked layer of polymer." A structure or feature corresponding to such a limitation is not found in McKellop. Moreover, claim 49 also includes the recitation of "a non-crosslinked layer of polymer *molded* to said crosslinked layer of polymer." Again, a structure or feature corresponding to such a limitation is not found in McKellop.

Claims 50-52 and 55 depend from claim 49 and are not anticipated by McKellop for at least the reasons discussed in regard to claim 49.

Claim 56 is not anticipated by McKellop for reasons similar to as discussed above in regard to claim 49. For example, claim 56 includes the limitations of "a first layer of *gamma irradiated* polymer..." and "a second layer of polymer *molded* to said first layer of polymer...". As discussed above in regard to claim 49, structures or features corresponding to such limitations are not found in McKellop.

Claims 57-61, along with newly added claim 124, depend from claim 56 and are not anticipated by McKellop for at least the reasons discussed in regard to claim 56.

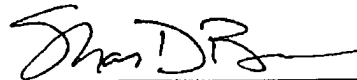
#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in a condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 265280-68002.

Respectfully submitted,

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